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EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT (Social Security Branch)

NOTIFICATION

The 31st March, 2021

No. SSWCD-24022/13/2020-6SS/1200.—The Governor of Punjab is pleased to notify the Scheme namely, Free Bus Travel for Women in Punjab as per the following:-

- 1. <u>Introduction:</u> Mobility has always been an important factor for socio-economic development. Access to safe, cheap and reliable mode of travel is essential for women to engage in any economic activity. Realizing this, the Government of Punjab seeks to provide free travel to women in the Government-owned public transport system.
- **2. Objectives:** The objectives of the Scheme are as follows:
 - i) Achieve social inclusion of women by facilitating greater mobility;
 - ii) Enable women to use public transport, improving their access to a range of important necessities such as education and healthcare;
 - iii) Enhance the self esteem and personal independence of women, which will have a positive impact on the entire family;
 - iv) Facilitate and achieve women's participation in all fields; and
 - v) Encourage women to get better paying jobs further away from their homes.

3. Eligibility criteria:

- (a) All women residents of Punjab.
- (b) All women who are family members of Punjab Government Employees and residing in Chandigarh or they themselves are employees of Punjab Government but live in Chandigarh, while travelling in ordinary buses, will be given the benefit of free travel, irrespective of age and income criteria in the State Transport Undertakings (STU) namely PRTC, PUNBUS and Punjab Roadways within the State of Punjab.

- **4.** <u>Coverage:</u>-Free travel facility for women as per eligibility criteria above within the State of Punjab.
- **5.** Buses which will be covered under the Scheme: The women residents of the Punjab can avail free bus travel in Government-owned buses including PEPSU Road Transport Corporation (PRTC), PUNBUS, Punjab Roadways Buses and City Bus Services operated by Local Bodies. The scheme is not applicable to Government-owned AC Buses, Volvo Buses and HVAC Buses.
- **6.** Required Documents: Aadhar Card, Voter Card or any other document as proof of residence in Punjab.
- **7.** Public Grievance Authority: For the effective implementation of the scheme, the officers at block level, and above of the Department of Women and Child Development shall be the Public Grievances Authority to redress the complaints of women/girls.

Women/ girls can also lodge their grievances at 181, Women Helpline. The grievances received at 181 shall be forwarded to the concerned officers at block/ district/ State level of the Department of Women and Child Development, Punjab. The action taken reports (ATRs) against the grievances received directly/ through 181 shall be submitted to the Director (SSWCD) and to the competent authority of the 181 Helpline by the officers of block/ districts level of the Department of Women and Child Development.

The State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW), Department of Women and Child Development shall monitor the scheme and shall also provide support for its effective implementation.

2.0 This issues with the approval of the State Finance Department conveyed vide No. FD-FE-60MISC/19/2021-5FE6-Part(1)/1/163813/2021 of 30.03.2021.

RAJI P. SHRIVASTAVA, IAS,

Principal Secretary, Govt. of Punjab Department of Social Security and Women & Child Development.

Chandigarh
The 31st March, 2021

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